

## **Level of Oversight on Cleanups Project Update**

### **Name of Activity**

1.1 Level of EPA Oversight on Cleanups Conducted by Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) Using RCRA's "Results-Based Approaches and Tailored Oversight Guidance" when performing Superfund PRP Oversight

### **Purpose of Activity**

To provide the Regions with additional guidance in support of Superfund's Administrative Reform on PRP Oversight. The Office of Site Remediation Enforcement (OSRE) and OSRTI request that Superfund program managers consider the principles contained in Section III, Tailored Oversight, when developing oversight plans with PRPs for their Superfund sites. This activity is cited in the 120-Day Study Recommendation #58 – develop procedures that encourage continued collaboration with PRPs in site cleanups in order to decrease the need for EPA's expenditure of oversight resources.

### **Major Actions Performed**

A memo entitled "Using RCRA's Results-Based Approaches and Tailored Oversight Guidance When Performing Superfund PRP Oversight" has been signed by the OSRE & OSRTI Office Directors on December 22, 2006.

### **Final Product Planned**

Although the Tailored Oversight Guidance memo was signed by OSRE and OSRTI Directors on December 22, 2006, OSRE issued the memo, along with the OSRE/OSRTI Prepayment of Oversight memo, to the Regions on January 24, 2007.

### **Results/Accomplishments**

OSRE analyzed oversight costs accounting data for fiscal years 2002 to 2006 to determine if EPA's oversight expenditures have decreased. While EPA's oversight costs during this time averaged approximately \$48 million a year, oversight costs between the fiscal years 2005 and 2006 decreased by \$6 million or roughly 11%.

### **Follow-Up Work Planned**

Using accounting data obtained from the Office of the Chief Financial Officer's Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS), OSRE will continue to periodically analyze the status of oversight costs.

### **OSRE Contact**

Vincent Velez (202.564.4972)

## **Federal Tax Exemption Project Update**

### **Name of Activity**

#### **2.1 Federal Tax Exemption – Getting the Most Out of Superfund Money**

### **Purpose of Activity**

To save tax-payer and EPA money in lean funding times, by promoting and accessing state, local and other tax exemptions available to contractors that perform clean-up work at Superfund sites. This activity is also being tracked to re-enforce a contractual clause (State and Local Taxes (EPAAR 1552.229-70)) incorporated in most, if not all Architect-Engineer Contracts, namely the Remedial Action Contracts (RACs) type contracts. The clause states that the burden for obtaining tax exemptions from the States and local entities is on the contractors. This activity is not a determinant from the 120-Day Study.

### **Major Actions Performed**

OSRTI is in the process of obtaining sales tax and certification information from all States.

### **Activity Start Date**

The work on this activity began with Region 7 and OSRTI's Contract Management Branch (CMB). Meetings and discussions began in January/February 2005.

### **Final Product(s) Planned**

There are two planned products:

- Headquarters will issue a Tax-Exempt Matrix Chart to the Regions on the availability of State exemptions for contractors.
- Headquarters will contact RAC contractors on the progress with pursuing tax-exemptions.

### **Results/Accomplishments**

Although OSRTI has completed a draft tax-exempt matrix chart, CMB recommends that this project be re-scheduled as "ongoing" at this point. OSRTI is working with other EPA offices to determine the universe of States that don't grant EPA or its contractor tax-exempt status and why. At least a preliminary list of states who don't grant EPA or its contractors a tax-exemption should be available in late 2007.

### **Activity Impact on the Program**

The impact of this activity on the Superfund program is undeterminable at this time. Any impact will not be determined until late 2007, or with the award of the new round of Response Action Contracts (RACII) that are currently in the award cue.

### **Follow-up Work Planned**

OSRTI and OAM plan to issue the tax-exempt matrix chart to the Regions and track its implementation.

### **OSRTI Contact**

Angela Edwards (703.603.0263)

## **Review Existing Accounts Project Update**

### **Name of Activity**

2.2 Review Existing Accounts and Maximize Resource Use on Funding for Remedial Actions and Long-Term Remedial Actions

### **Purpose of Activity**

The purpose is to maximize resource use on funding Remedial Actions. This is cited in the 120-Day Study Recommendations #15 – Allocating State Cost Share Funding and #21 – Deobligating FY04 Funds.

### **Major Actions Performed**

OSRTI has worked with Regions to review unliquidated obligations and identify and redirect monies in contracts, grants, interagency agreements, and cooperative agreements. This process started in the beginning of FY05 and will continue to be ongoing in four parts:

#### 2.2 a Deobligation of unexpended resources currently in the Superfund program.

### **Final Products**

Either Completed/Planned: Memorandum to Regional Superfund Policy Managers outlining Deobligation policy for FY05 (February 1, 2005), Memorandum to Regional Superfund Policy Managers outlining Deobligation policy for FY06 (December 12, 2005), and Review of Unexpended Remedial Resources for Deobligation for FY07 (December 20, 2006).

### **Results/Accomplishments**

The Regions deobligated and returned \$55 million to the national pool for remedial action in FY05 and deobligated and returned \$40 million to the national pool for remedial actions in FY06.

### **Follow-up Work Planned**

The Regions have a deobligation goal to return \$29.5 million to the national pool for remedial action in FY07.

#### 2.2 b Review existing active interagency agreements(IAGs) issued to the Corps by Regions for Superfund projects (about 400 IAGs)

### **Final Product**

OSRTI issued a memorandum to Regional Superfund Policy Managers, dated March 3, 2006, requesting the detailed review of each IAG to look for excess funds to deobligate. Funds available for deobligation are to be reported back to Ken Skahn by March 29, 2006 and planned deobligations completed by May 31, 2006. This is now combined with the annual “Review of Remedial Program Unliquidated Resources for Deobligation in FY07,” (OSWER Directive 9200.0-59).

### **Results/Accomplishments**

OSRTI completed work in FY06.

**Follow-up Work Planned**

Planned deobligations are being tracked to verify that deobligation commitments are completed annually.

2.2 c Review the status of funds currently in Superfund State Contracts (SSCs) or unused State cost share accounts.

**Final Products**

OSRTI completed a memorandum to Regional Superfund Policy Managers dated April 4, 2005. For FY07, the Superfund Response and Enforcement Work Planning memo was sent in June 2006.

**Results/Accomplishments**

Review of SSCs has been incorporated into the Work Planning Process. OCFO has developed SSC Reports through ORBIT. OSRTI has developed E-facts as a tool to report SSC dollars.

**Follow-up Work Planned**

HQ will work on improving SSC Reports through ORBIT and reporting SSC dollars through E-facts. The Regions will continue to review and track SSC Reports.

2.2 d Review how monies in special accounts may be available for response action use.

**Final Product(s)**

OSRTI completed a memorandum to Regional Superfund Policy Managers dated April 4, 2005. For FY07, Superfund Response and Enforcement Work Planning memo was sent in June 2006.

**Results/Accomplishments**

Review of Special Accounts has been incorporated into OSRTI's Work Planning Process. Reports on Special Accounts were distributed to the Regions and are now available through ORBIT. OSRE has developed Special Account Reports through ORBIT. OSRTI has developed E-facts as a tool to report Special Account dollars.

**Follow-up Work Planned**

HQ will work on improving Special Account Reports through ORBIT and reporting SSC dollars through E-facts. OSRTI and the Regions will continue to review and track Special Account dollars.

**OSRTI Contacts**

Kevin Hollingsworth (703.603.9058)

Ken Skahn (703.603.8801)

## **Integrated Triad Project Update**

### **Name of Activity**

2.3 Integrate Triad approach (strong systematic project planning, ensuring confidence in project decisions, quality-assured field-generated data, etc.) into cleanup project lifecycle as a 2<sup>nd</sup> generation approach that improves investigations, cleanups, long-term monitoring, legal defensibility, etc.

### **Purpose of Activity**

This activity is related to the 120-Day Study Recommendations #30 – Integrate Remedial Activities.

### **Major Actions Performed**

- Since 2001, the Triad approach has produced more than 16 EPA documents & reports; published more than 13 journal articles; developed papers for more than 10 conference proceedings; provided over 15 brief news items; delivered more than 110 talks; and participated in or delivered more than 74 trainings related activities to support Triad.
- Provided Triad-based technical support to more than 14 Brownfields projects receiving EPA grant funding.
- Work with Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council (ITRC) in 2003 to publish Triad overview guidance for state regulators. In 2007, a new ITRC Triad guidance to address state regulatory hurdles to Triad implementation will be released.
- Initiated efforts to integrate Uniform Federal Policy-Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) guidance into routine Triad documentation.
- Handling increased requests from states and EPA regional offices for training (more than 7 completed or underway in FY06).
- Completed a policy memo, dated September 1, 2006, jointly signed by OSRTI and FFRRO encouraging use of Triad across Superfund programs (see measure 3.5a).
- Established the Triad Community of Practice that includes representatives of federal, state, and private sector organizations in the U.S. and abroad, and support ongoing operations and activities.

### **Final Product(s)**

- *Dynamic Field Activities Guidance*. May 2003. Guidance focused on a single Triad component.
- *Triad Resource Center* ([www.triadcentral.org](http://www.triadcentral.org)) in collaboration with the Department of Energy and Army Corps of Engineers. It provides an overview of Triad concepts, details on technical planning and implementation details; and a 24 site profile database with Triad project examples illustrating resource savings and “how-to” information.
- Issue paper on performing dynamic work strategies completed in September 2005.

- Guide on procurement experiences at Triad projects finalized in September 2005.
- Completed matrix of Decision Support Tools available to support Triad project implementation (per measure 3.4e).
- Released the OSWER Memo *Advancing Best Management Practices: Applying the Triad Approach in the Superfund Program*, a policy memo jointly signed by OSRTI and FFRRP encouraging the use of Triad across the Superfund program (see measure 3.5a).
- Established the Superfund Regional Triad Workgroup to foster the implementation of the recommendations of the Triad Policy Memo.

### **Results/Accomplishments**

- Facilitated the establishment of a Triad support network for established and new Triad practitioners to share their experiences, develop more Triad expertise, and get advice.
- The Triad project profiles database provides hard evidence documenting that Triad supports significant project time and cost savings and increases stakeholder satisfaction.
- Increased recognition of Triad cost-savings to state petroleum cleanup funding agencies and the Underground Storage Tanks (UST) program.
- Technical support activities underway at Superfund sites in Regions 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 9.

### **Follow-up Work Planned**

- Continue documentation of project results in database (>20 more “in pipeline”), including lessons learned, resource savings, and stakeholder concurrence and satisfaction.
- Continue intense training and presentation schedule. Improve training effectiveness to communicate the breadth and depth of Triad applications, with detailed specifics of implementing & documenting projects.
- Continue additions to and expansions of *Triad Resource Center* website.
- Reach other cleanup program managers with evidence of Triad benefits to each stage of cleanup process: public relations, characterization, risk assessment, remedial selection, construction and optimization, long-term monitoring, scientific and legal defensibility, redevelopment, closeout, etc.
- Provide technical support to Regional staff in applying Triad at Superfund, RCRA, UST, and Brownfields sites through the Brownfields and Revitalization Technology Support Center.
- Initiate review of the Quality Assurance Guidance for Conducting Brownfields Site Assessments with cross-program participation in the technical team.

### **OSRTI Contact**

Deana Crumbling (703.603.0643)

Carlos Pachon (703.603.9904)

## **Priority Site Review Project Update**

### **Name of Activity**

3.1a Priority Site Remedy Review of Vineland Chemical site in NJ

### **Purpose of Activity**

Documents the value of incorporating new technology and the most cost-efficient cleanup approach based on experience after the remedy has been selected. The Vineland Chemical site was chosen as one of two pilot projects to demonstrate how the program is meeting the intent of the 120-Day Study Recommendation #41 – Cost-Effective Cleanup.

### **Major Actions Performed**

OSRTI completed a project review of the Vineland Chemical site, which was initiated by Region 2, in order to consider alternative engineering approaches. The new implementation alternatives were reviewed by the National Risk-Based Priority Panel and a recommendation approach was identified and implemented.

A Superfund Project Review Report was finalized on March 1, 2005, which formally documents activities undertaken over the past several years at the Vineland site that embody and demonstrate the application of Superfund management principals.

### **Results/Accomplishments**

Adjustments were made in three distinct areas, which resulted in improved efficiency in meeting remedial objectives for the site. The three areas are: operation enhancement of site soils (OU#1) via on-site treatment, which could result in potential cost savings in excess of \$60 million; ground-water optimization (OU#2) via plant operation and well field pumping management, which could result in potential savings of between \$15 and \$20 million; and staging and phasing work on the adjacent wetlands and surface water bodies (OU#3 and #4) via addressing upstream reaches for highest concentrations first, which could result in potential cost savings in excess of \$200 million.

Additional information on the progress of the work at the Vineland site may be found on the EPA Region 2 internet page under the heading of Superfund, National Priority List Fact Sheets, Vineland Chemical site in New Jersey.

### **Follow-up Work Planned**

Region 2 plans to implement project improvements to the remedial approach for Vineland Chemical. OSRTI is looking for other sites to perform additional remedy reviews.

### **OSRTI Contact**

John J. Smith (703.603.8802)

## **Summitville Mine Project Update**

### **Name of Activity**

#### **3.1.b Review of the Summitville Mine Site Superfund Remedy**

### **Purpose of Activity**

Documents the value of reviews performed by technical experts of previously selected, but not fully implemented Superfund site remedy in order to assess the cost effectiveness of a cleanup. The Summitville site was chosen as one of two pilot projects to demonstrate how the program is meeting the intent of the 120-Day Study Recommendation #41 – Cost-Effective Cleanup.

### **Major Actions Performed**

The National Remedy Review Board (NRRB) conducted a site remedy review, initiated by OSRTI, to determine if the remedy selected in 2001 remained appropriate and cost-effective. Portions of the remedy were implemented, but other portions, such as a new replacement Water Treatment Plant, are not yet constructed. The focus of the review was: (1) to evaluate the Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs) and Water Quality Standards chosen in the remedy; (2) to consider other treatment technologies that might lower the overall cost of site cleanup using an independent technology evaluation review by the Office of Research and Development; and (3) to perform a value engineering study of the new treatment plant design.

### **Results/Accomplishments**

- Complete charge Questions
  - Completed March 2005
- Value Engineering Study
  - Completed July 2005
- Treatment Technology Review
  - Completed July 2005
- Development of NRRB Package
  - Completed July 2005
- NRRB Review
  - Completed July 2005
- NRRB Advisory Recommendations
  - Completed August 2005

After NRRB issued advisory recommendations, Region 8 responded to them in writing. These are available on website [www.summitville.com](http://www.summitville.com). Remaining actions include:

- The Region is to consider changes and waivers to site Water Quality Discharge Standards with the State of Colorado through the tri-annual review process for the Alamosa River Basin scheduled for late 2007. As this is a routine on-going activity conducted among State, local and EPA Water authorities, this is outside the scope of this initiative and will no longer be tracked.



- After the initial value engineering study conducted for the NRRB, a second follow-up independent review of the remedial design was deemed desirable and is being performed by personnel from the U.S. COE and tracked under Measure 3.3, Independent Review of Fund-Lead Remedial Designs.

**Follow-up Action**

No other action is planned.

**OSRTI Contact**

Charles Sands (703.603.8857)

## **Residential Yard Cleanup Project Update**

### **Name of Activity**

3.2a National Consistency - Residential Yard Cleanup

### **Purpose of Activity**

Evaluate the factors that contribute to differences in costs between residential cleanup projects performed under the Superfund program, and provide a framework for comparing project costs. This activity is related to the 120-Day Study Recommendations #41 – Cost-Effective Cleanup and #42 – Similar Remedies at Similar Site Types.

### **Major Actions Performed**

OSRTI formed a project committee of Regional managers and reviewed a subset of 13 projects chosen from a universe of sites within the Superfund program largely based on readily available data.

A draft report was completed on May 18, 2005, which formally documents actions undertaken during the evaluation.

### **Results/Accomplishments**

The project committee offered several observations: 1) comparison of project performance by use of single parameters can be misleading; 2) Regional approaches were appropriate for individual sites; 3) several key determinants are outside of EPA's control; 4) Differences in site condition are key drivers of cost variations; 5) community acceptance plays a key role in the design of residential cleanup remedies; and 6) remedy implementation factors are also key drivers in cost variations.

The project committee looked at three site types – metals, organics, and radionuclides, and six cost categories – remedial action costs, transportation costs, disposal costs, technical support and management costs, real estate costs, and U.S. Corps of Engineer's (USCOE) costs.

### **Follow-up Work Planned**

There are no future plans to expand on this report.

### **OSRTI Contact**

John J. Smith (703.603.8802)

## **Contaminated Sediment Project Update**

### **Name of Activity**

3.2b Contaminated Sediment Remediation Guidance for Hazardous Waste Sites

### **Purpose of Activity**

To increase scientifically-sound and nationally-consistent remedy decisions for sediment cleanup by Superfund and RCRA project managers, and to provide a sound technical resource for other governmental organizations and potentially responsible parties that conduct sediment cleanups. This measure is related to the 120-Day Study Recommendations #41 – Cost-Effective Cleanup and #42 – Similar Remedies at Similar Site Types.

### **Major Action Performed**

Peer Review Draft Issued – January 2005

### **Results/Accomplishments**

- Final Guidance Issued – December 2005
- Regional Sediment Training in Regions 1, 5, and 10 (2005 – 2006)
- Sediment Remedy Training conducted at NARPM in 2006
- Sediment Remedy Training conducted using CLU-IN in 2006
- Public sediment remedy training conducted in 2006

This guidance will result in increased attention to:

- Identifying and controlling the source of sediment contamination and the pathways of contaminant exposure, prior to cleanup;
- Using a technical team approach, and involving the community and other stakeholders throughout the cleanup process;
- Considering all three major approaches to management of contaminated sediments (monitored natural recovery, in-situ capping, and dredging), and considering alternatives which combine approaches;
- Validating models used to support sediment decisions and considering model uncertainty and sensitivity;
- Considering how contaminated sediment alternatives manage or reduce risks, including consideration of residual risks; and
- Monitoring the effectiveness of remedies at contaminated sediment sites.

### **Follow-up Work Planned**

None

### **OSRTI Contact**

Leah Evison (703.603.9022)

## **Sediment Resource Center Project Update**

### **Name of Activity**

3.2c Superfund Sediment Resource Center (SSRC)

### **Purpose of Activity**

To provide remedial project managers assistance on site-specific technical issues related to the cleanup of contaminated sediment sites. This activity is related to the 120-Day Study Recommendations #41 – Cost-Effective Cleanup, and #42 – Similar Remedies at Similar Site Types.

Types of assistance provided include:

- Reviewing documents and deliverables such as work plans
- Providing general input on the results of engineering studies, modeling work, statistical and sampling designs, and bioaccumulation studies
- Conducting technology transfer activities such as preparing fact sheets and holding workshops

### **Major Actions Performed**

SSRC has been accessible to EPA project managers since April 7, 2004.

Offered internet training based on the three-day sediment remediation training provided in 2005.

### **Results/Accomplishments**

SSRC has provided assistance at 14 sediment sites through 18 separate requests. EPA Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 10 have accessed the SSRC for assistance.

### **Follow-up Work Planned**

Continue to provide technical assistance through fiscal year 2007.

### **OSRTI Contact**

Kelly Madalinski (703.603.9901)

## **Mining Sites Strategy Project Update**

### **Name of Activity**

3.2d Strategy for (1) promoting innovative technologies for mine site remediation, (2) coordinating development of a mining industry Environmental Management System (EMS) and (3) encouraging the Reuse, Revitalization and Cleanup of Mining Sites.

### **Purpose of Activity**

The goals of this strategy are (1) selecting cost-effective technologies for long-term mine site remediation, (2) promoting the development of a mining industry EMS which may lead to pollution prevention, waste minimization and best management practices and potentially minimizing future Superfund mining sites through the development and (3) working with a variety of stakeholders to encourage remediation, redevelopment and reuse of abandoned mining lands (AML) sites. This activity is related to the 120-Day Study Recommendations #41 – Cost-effective Cleanup and #42 – Similar Remedies at Similar Site Types.

### **Major Actions Performed**

- (For goal 1) Workshop – Mine Affected Waters, Denver, CO. in May 2005. The main action item was better sharing information on innovative technologies.
- (For goal 2) Coordinate efforts with the Society of Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration (SME), which initiated the development of a mining sector EMS in April 2007.
- (For goal 3) Initiate project aimed at accelerating the post-cleanup reuse of mine sites.

### **Results/Accomplishments**

- (For goal 1) Develop a search engine for innovative technologies has currently been added to EPA's abandoned mine lands (AML) website as a follow up from May 2005 workshop.
- (For goal 1) Continuing bi-annual workshop - U.S. Abandoned Mine Lands Biochemical Remediation Technologies Workshop, April 2007 – sharing information on the use of innovative technologies at mine sites.
- (For goal 2) SME projects a draft mining sector EMS document by late June of 2007.
- (For goal 3) Briefed OSWER DAA on reuse project and drafted up a work plan with Office of Brownfields Cleanup and Redevelopment (OBCR) on follow up action items.

### **Follow-up Work Planned:**

- (For goal 1) - enhancing and updating search engine/data base for innovative technologies.
- (For goal 1) - continue workshops sharing experience.
- (For goal 2) - continue coordinating with SME and other stakeholders.

- (For goal 3) - working with other programs (e.g., Brownfields, FFRRO), states, tribes and other possible stakeholders to develop specific guidance to encourage the reuse of mine sites within existing statutory authorities.
- (For goal 3) - conducting 2 forums to discuss with states, tribes, environmental groups, mining industry, regional planners and others on what the Agency needs to do to facilitate reuse of mining sites.
- (For goal 3) - developing a mining sites revitalization tool kit.

**OSRTI Contact**

Shahid Mahmud (703.603.8789) or Joan Fisk Neptune (703.603.8791)

## **Independent Review of Design Project Update**

### **Name of Activity**

3.3 Independent Review of Fund Lead Remedial Designs.

### **Purpose of Activity**

Encourages Regions to have a review of the preliminary design (for fund lead projects) performed by technical experts who are completely independent from the team that prepared the design. This activity is cited in the 120-Day Study Recommendations # 39 – Require Value Engineering.

### **Major Actions Performed**

#### 3.3 a Pilot Site - Fruit Avenue in Albuquerque, New Mexico

### **Final Product**

The Fruit Avenue Site in Albuquerque, New Mexico in Region 6 was selected as a pilot and an independent review of the design was performed by personnel from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USCOE). The review was completed in November 2004. The review confirmed the approach to the remedial action being taken by the Region was a good one.

### **Results/Accomplishments**

The Review resulted in several cost savings recommendations and verified that the revised design approach to the remedy was correct. The cost savings recommendations included: elimination of bonding requirements for well drillers, challenging the validity of a State tax on a CERCLA project, and eliminating unwarranted zoning fees applied to the project by the City of Albuquerque.

### **Follow-up Work**

A second design package for the Summitville Mine Site in Colorado in Region 8 is currently being reviewed as another pilot. The independent review is again being conducted by the USCOE. Cost savings recommendations will be part of the final report that is scheduled to be completed in 2006.

#### 3.3 b Checklist for Independent Review

### **Final Product**

After the Fruit Avenue review, a checklist for performing independent reviews of remedial designs was developed. The purpose of the checklist is to guide reviewers to question aspects of the design with the intent of reducing the cost of construction. The checklist will be placed on the EPA/USCOE Superfund web-site and will be accessible to the public.

**Results/Accomplishments**

The checklist and instructions have been drafted. Pilot projects are being identified for use in validating and improving the draft checklist.

**Follow-up Work**

The checklist will be improved through program reviews of remedial designs and used for independent design reviews by the review team at the same time the Value Engineering (VE) Study is conducted.

**3.3 c Reaffirm Requirement for Value Engineering (VE)****Final Product**

Memo issued April 14, 2006.

**Follow-up Work**

Monitor VE accomplishments.

**OSRTI Contact**

Ken Skahn (703.603.8801)



## **Document Management System Project Update**

### **Name of Activity**

3.4a Superfund Document Management System

### **Purpose of Activity**

Improve Program Management through better organization and access to Pipeline Site Activity documentation. This activity is related to the 120-Day Study Recommendation #99 - Provide Information about Current Agency Systems.

### **Major Actions Performed**

Central Repository infrastructure created at Research Triangle Park (RTP) for Superfund document management and storage. SDMS has been designated the central, single, official storage and management repository for all Superfund records and related content, such as photographs, video, web pages, etc. Standard document templates will be developed to ensure consistent metadata describes each Superfund document. Headquarters and the Regions together coordinated document and data migration to the Central Repository concluding the 3rd quarter of FY07.

### **Final Product(s)**

SDMS provides standards for the storage of all Superfund related documents, photographs, video, web pages, etc. It provides the Superfund Program with a central single official storage solution for all Superfund content.

### **Results/Accomplishments**

The SDMS Central Repository is active. The Institutional Controls Tracking System (ICTS) has been integrated with SDMS.

### **Follow-up Work Planned**

SDMS will be available to access through the EPA Portal system in July 2007.

SDMS is completing two phases of integration with the EPA's new Enterprise Content Management System.

A query interface to the ICTS data management module will be available by the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, FY07.

Consolidate ICTS/SDMS and CERCLIS to provide a comprehensive Superfund Enterprise Management System. This integration will ensure that all Superfund site planning and accomplishments are directly linked to their supporting documentation.

### **OSRTI Contact**

Steve Wyman (703.603.8882)

## **Data Management Project Update**

### **Name of Activity**

3.4 b Data Management of Existing Superfund Systems/ Systems Tool Inventory Project

### **Purpose of Activity**

To establish a comprehensive, meaningful and informative inventory of Superfund IT systems and tools and to provide a documented source of information to serve as a reference tool for current and future Superfund IT-related work. The inventory will help EPA avoid duplication of future systems or tools. This activity is cited in the 120-Day Study Recommendation #99 – Provide Information About Current Agency Systems. OSWER should also establish a process by which future plans and systems are communicated across the program.

### **Major Actions Performed**

(Project started September 2004) OSRTI conducted conference calls with pilot regions (1, 5, and 9) and developed a questionnaire.

### **Final Product**

On-line questionnaire made available to all regions <http://www.emsus.com/rsfitq/>) – Completed March 2005. OSRTI conducted follow up interviews and created a summary document – Completed June 2005. Information has been sent to the Registry of EPA Applications and Databases (READ) system – Completed June 2005.

### **Results/Accomplishments**

OSRTI was able to complete the first half of this recommendation which was to determine what systems and tools are currently being used or planned on being created. This information was then entered into the National EPA system for applications and databases.

### **Follow-up Work Planned**

Management will now have to determine the second part of the recommendation, which is to create a method of informing the program when new systems are created.

### **OSRTI Contact**

Terrence Ferguson (703.603.8773)

## **Electronic Tools Project Update**

### **Name of Activity**

3.4 c Employ Use of Standard Electronic Tools for Management of Electronic Data

### **Purpose of Activity**

This activity was related to the 120-Day Study Recommendations #99 - Provide Information About Current Agency Systems.

### **Major Actions Performed**

OSRTI completed training in 8 of 10 Regions on implementation of Staged Electronic Data Deliverable (SEDD) and electronic data review during calendar year 2005. This activity went from March to September 2005.

### **Final Product(s)**

OSRTI modified contracts to require use of Staged Electronic Data Deliverable (SEDD) format and electronic data review software. This work began in June 2004 and continues as each Region awards these types of contracts.

### **Results/Accomplishments**

Contractor data review for emergency response can now be easily tracked and evaluated by EPA Personnel.

### **Follow-up Work Planned**

SEDD will be implemented for all Superfund Contract Laboratory Program (CLP) contracts during calendar years 2006 and 2007. OSRTI's Analytical Services Branch (ASB) is now working with all EPA Regions, other EPA offices (such as Office of Water and Office of Radiation and Indoor Air), other Federal Agencies (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Navy) and the states to implement SEDD, electronic data review, and exchange of reviewed data using XML.

### **OSRTI Contact**

Beth Holman (703.603.8761)

## **Spatially-Oriented Project Update**

### **Name of Activity**

3.4 d Issue Superfund guidance on types of spatially-oriented information about location of sites and sampling data.

### **Purpose of Activity**

The purpose of the activity is to establish a standard set of geospatial data types and metadata being collected in the Regional Offices to identify the location of Superfund sites and to describe sampling data. The standardization will facilitate sharing of data among Regions and allow data reuse by ensuring that geospatial data collected early in site cleanup is available and appropriate for use in subsequent activities, such as five-year reviews and institutional controls. This activity was related to the 120-Day Study Recommendations #99 - Provide Information About Current Agency Systems.

### **Major Actions Performed**

A Draft Superfund Geospatial Data Procedure was distributed to the Regional Workgroup members in May 2005. The Agency finalized the National Geospatial Data Policy in August 2005.

### **Final Product(s)**

OSRTI will issue the Superfund Geospatial Data Procedure to implement the EPA National Geospatial Data Policy.

### **Results/Accomplishments**

The Regional Workgroup re-started review of the Draft Superfund Geospatial Data Procedure following the finalization of the National Geospatial Data Policy in August 2005. Regional teleconferences began in December 2005 to review the sections of the Procedure.

### **Follow-up Work Planned**

Regional teleconferences will continue into 2007 with a goal of finalizing the Procedure by December 2007, subject to funding.

### **OSRTI Contact**

Carolyn K. Offutt (703.603.8797)

## **Screening Matrix Project Update**

### **Name of Activity**

3.4 e Screening Matrix of Electronic Decision Support Tools for Use in Site Cleanups

### **Purpose of Activity**

To issue screening matrix of electronic decision support tools for use in site cleanups. This activity is related to the 120-Day Study Recommendations #99 – Provide Information About Current Agency Systems. The purpose of the matrix is to aid site project managers by providing information on tools that can assist decisions at sites via data management, visualization, remedy selection, monitoring optimization, data acquisition, etc.

### **Major Actions Performed**

Matrix planning began during the Summer 2004 (envisioned by Federal Remediation Technology Roundtable (FRTR) in 2003). The development actions included:

- Evaluation of design and scope of project,
- Decision tool evaluations,
- Review and comments from FRTR members and software-tool developers,
- Produced reports and case studies, and
- Posted webpage matrix.

### **Final Product(s)**

- Version 1 of on-line matrix completed
- Case Studies on how to use specific tools, and
- Final report on matrix development.

### **Results/Accomplishments**

Matrix and documents posted at [www.frtr.gov/decisionsupport](http://www.frtr.gov/decisionsupport) in October 2005.

### **Follow-up Work Planned**

- Addition of new tools in updates to matrix.
- Increased support to Regions on applications of tools in conjunction with Triad support efforts (per measure 2.3).
- Development and delivery of Internet seminars on individual tools to help potential users understand applicability and benefits of tools.

### **OSRTI Contact**

Michael Adam (703.603.9915)

## **Scale Data Collection Project Update**

### **Name of Activity**

3.5 a Scale data collection, analysis and assessment strategies appropriately to manage decision uncertainty in order to improve project effectiveness.

### **Purpose of Activity**

This activity is related to the 120-Day Study Recommendations #99 – Provide Information about Current Agency Systems.

### **Major Actions Performed**

- This activity relates directly to activity 2.3, Integrate Triad approach (strong systematic project planning, ensuring confidence in project decisions, quality-assured field-generated data, etc.) into cleanup projects lifecycle as a 2<sup>nd</sup> generation approach that improves investigations, cleanups, long-term monitoring, legal defensibility, etc. Activity 2.3 reporting provides a fuller listing of Triad-related activities underway/ completed.
- The primary focus of this activity is to issue a policy memo jointly signed by OSRTI and FFRRO encouraging use of Triad across Superfund programs.

### **Final Product(s)**

Final memo completed on September 1, 2006.

### **Results/Accomplishments**

Final memo completed on September 1, 2006.

### **Follow-up Work Planned**

Implementation of final memo.

### **OSRTI Contact**

Jean Balent (703.603.9924)

## **FASTAC Project Update**

### **Name of Activity**

3.5 b Optimize Use of the Field and Analytical Services Teaming Advisory Committee (FASTAC)

### **Purpose of Activity**

This activity is cited in the 120-Day Study Recommendation #49 – Implement FASTAC approach.

### **Major Actions Performed**

This effort began in the summer of 2004 and has included a series of meetings and conference calls. These actions involved the FASTAC committee and other senior managers and staff from up to six Regional Superfund and Lab programs. Regional Division Directors (DDs) discussed this workgroup's recommendations at the DD meeting on March 10, 2005. Follow up actions were discussed at both the July and November DD meetings in 2005.

### **Final Product(s)**

OSRTI developed analytical services cost summary tables from each region. OSRTI continued implementation of the Analytical Services Tracking System (ANSETS) reporting according to 2001 Directive with some slight modifications. OSRTI is drafting a report on data validation and review, which will be distributed to the regions for review and comment during FY06.

### **Results/Accomplishments**

Four major decisions were made at the March 10, 2005, DD Meeting and the Regions have taken appropriate action. The recommendations include:

- Regions should establish "brokers" or broker systems where they do not already exist. (This has been accomplished as of September 1, 2005.)
- Regional DDs should review and document their program spending on Superfund analytical services and submit this information in tabular form to the subgroup by May 1, 2005. (This was completed for FY04 and the first quarter FY05; managers found this exercise to be useful and have agreed to continue to summarize this information at least twice each year.)
- Regions should fully implement the Analytical Services Tracking System (ANSETS) by the fourth quarter of FY05 to ensure good information is available on our program's FASTAC implementation. (Regions have been very active in implementing ANSETS, and continue to work with HQ to improve reporting in certain areas (e.g., USACE reporting).)
- Regions should provide a brief summary of their analytical data review and validation principles to the workgroup by May 1, 2005. (All regions provided these summaries as well as additional supplemental information to HQ/Analytical Services Branch over the summer of 2005. This material has been assembled into a draft report that will be circulated for discussion among the Regions. Decisions about further workgroup activity in this area will depend on these discussions).

In addition to activity in the above four areas, the cost effectiveness of various funding options that would support regional needs for ESAT, CLP and other analytical services contracts or IAGs was considered in FY05 workgroup discussions (see recommendation #50). The need for practical flexibility among funding options for these provider contracts was also considered. As a result, it was decided on March 10, 2005, to continue funding regional ESAT contracts with the ASB budget, and to address a CLP budget shortfall with regional pipeline money.

**Follow-up Work Planned**

Other actions are planned in both the Regions and HQ that are expected to improve the cost effectiveness of our use of the other analytical services provider contracts/IAGs (RAC, START, ERRS, USACE, REAC, etc.). Regional Superfund Division Directors, other senior EPA RS&T/Lab officials (and supporting staff) will be reviewing progress in implementing these actions during the winter, spring, summer and fall of 2006. A specialized group is being established to discuss the draft report on national practices for review and validation of lab data during FY06.

**OSRTI Contact**

Beth Holman (703.603.8761)



## **Prepayment of Accounts Project Update**

### **Name of Activity**

3.6 Prepayment of Oversight and Special Accounts

### **Purpose of Activity**

To provide additional guidance on the prepayment oversight costs discussed in the October 4, 2002, "A Consolidated Guidance on the Establishment, Management and Use of CERCLA Special Accounts." It has been the Agency's general practice to use appropriated Trust Fund money to pay for EPA's oversight, and periodically bill the Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs). This activity is cited in the 120-Day Study Recommendations #15 – Allocate Special Account Funding.

### **Major Actions Performed**

A special account web-site has been developed at <http://intranet.epa.gov/oeca/osre/workgroup/sa.html>. A memo titled, "Management of Special Accounts" was issued by OSRE and OSRTI on August 4, 2005 (OSWER Directive #9275.1-16).

### **Final Products**

Memo titled, "Additional Guidance on Prepayment of Oversight Costs and Special Accounts" completed on December 22, 2006. Memo signed by OSRE, OSRTI, OFM, and OFS Office Directors.

### **Results/Accomplishments**

As a means to save additional appropriated Trust Fund dollars, Regions should, in appropriate cases request that PRPs prepay the first installment of oversight costs under any settlement where the PRPs have agreed to perform a response action and pay future oversight costs. There are a number of situations where it will be unnecessary to seek prepayment of oversight costs.

### **Follow-up Work Planned**

OSRE plans to implement the new memo with all EPA regions and identify any areas where additional guidance or fact sheet may be appropriate.

### **OSRE Contact**

Melissa Franolich (202.564.6300)

## **Remedy Reform Project Update**

### **Name Of Activity**

4.1 Remedy Update Reform (Encourages Regions to update remedies using the best science available.)

### **Purpose of Activity**

The Remedy Update Reform, which was announced on October 5, 1995, brings past decisions in line with the current state of knowledge with respect to remediation science and technology while maintaining protectiveness to human health and the environment. This activity is related to the 120-Day Study Recommendations #27 – Effectively Communicate Cleanup Accomplishments and #41 – Cost-Effective Cleanup.

### **Major Actions Performed**

OSRTI finalized the memorandum titled “Re-Emphasize Use and Expand Tracking of the Superfund Reform Updating Remedy Decisions” in order to encourage Regions to perform remedy updates as necessary (OSWER 9200.0-22-1, August 5, 2005). The memo encourages Regions to continue to update remedies as necessary and to expand the tracking of remedy updates to include non-scientific as well as scientific remedy changes.

The memorandum also states that this reform will continue to be coordinated with other remedy progress initiatives, such as those involving post-construction optimization and institutional control implementation.

### **Results/Accomplishments**

Since its inception, EPA has updated approximately 655 remedies. The amount of total estimated cost savings from remedy updates completed from FY96 to FY05 exceeds \$2.1 billion. The amount of total estimated cost increases over the same time period is less than \$700 million.

Since 1996, OSRTI has produced progress reports on the reform every two years (see web-site <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/programs/reforms/remedy/index.htm>).

In FY05, remedy updates generated estimated cost savings in excess of \$100M. More details are contained in the latest remedy update summary report completed, titled “Updating Remedy Decisions at Select Superfund Sites Summary Report FY2004 and FY2005” (OSWER Directive #9355.0-116, February 2007). The latest summary report was released on March 19, 2007.

### **Follow-up Work Planned**

OSRTI plans to document the progress of remedy updates completed after FY05. The next summary report covering FY06 and FY07 is planned for 2008.

### **OSRTI Contact**

Matthew Charsky (703.603.8777)

## **NRRB Project Update**

### **Name of Activity**

#### **4.2 National Remedy Review Board (NRRB) Criteria**

### **Purpose of Activity**

The NRRB expanded the scope of its effort by lowering the threshold to capture more site-specific decisions. The NRRB was conceived as part of the 1995 Administrative Reforms and the original goal was to review proposed cleanup plans, where costs for the preferred action were estimated to exceed \$30 million. Effective July 1, 2005, the NRRB will lower the threshold costs for review to \$25 million. Other criteria regarding Department of Energy (DOE) sites where radiation is the primary contaminant of concern (costs in excess of \$75 million) and DOE non-time critical removal actions (costs in excess of \$30 million) remain the same. This activity is cited in the 120-Day Study Recommendations #37 – Re-evaluate NRRB’s Criteria and #38 – Enhance NRRB’s Role.

### **Major Actions Performed**

OSRTI finalized the memorandum titled “National Remedy Review Board Criteria” in order to encourage other sites that didn’t previously meet the threshold to also have a Board review (OSWER 9220.0-27, March 21, 2005). The memo explains that the NRRB will review all proposed interim and final Superfund response decisions at both National Priority List (NPL) and non-NPL sites where the costs for the preferred action are estimated to exceed \$25 million.

### **Results/Accomplishments**

In FY06, the NRRB reviewed 6 sites.

Since its inception, the NRRB significantly improved both the consistency and cost effectiveness of Superfund cleanup decisions over the past eight years.

After each site review, the Board gives recommendations to the Region for consideration. Each Region submits a response to these recommendations to the NRRB Chair prior to finalizing the decision document. Additional information on the progress of NRRB reviews can be found on the internet at [www.epa.gov/superfund/programs/nrrb/](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/programs/nrrb/).

### **Follow-up Work Planned**

NRRB plans to return to the goal of reviewing at least 10% of the decisions that meet the criteria established above.

### **OSRTI Contact**

David Cooper (703.603.8763)

## **Ground Water Remedy Project Update**

### **Name of Activity**

4.3 Ground water remedy performance (Encourage Regions to review/optimize ground water remedies, particularly high cost remedies.)

### **Purpose of Activity**

Remedy optimization encourages systematic review and modification of operating ground water remedies to promote continuous improvement and to enhance overall remedy and cost effectiveness. Also see 120-Day Study Recommendation #40 – Long-Term Response Reviews.

### **Major Actions Performed**

OSRTI finalized the “Action Plan for Ground Water Remedy Optimization” in order to outline our commitment to routine performance evaluation (OSWER 9283.1-25, August 25, 2004).

OSRTI has developed two annual reports on optimization, which documents both site-specific and nationwide progress with implementation of recommended system improvements (“2004 Annual Progress Report for Ground Water Remedy Optimization” OSWER 9283.1-27, August 2005 and “2005 Annual Progress Report for Ground Water Remedy Optimization” OSWER 9283.1-28).

### **Results/Accomplishments**

To date, EPA has performed approximately 39 optimization evaluations at Fund-lead ground water remedies, resulting in almost 250 recommendations to reduce annual operating costs or improve long-term remedy protectiveness. (Note: This does not include another 15 optimization evaluations which were conducted by parties other than EPA.) As documented in the 2005 annual report, more than half of the recommendations are complete and only 9% remain to be addressed. The rest of the recommendations are either in progress or were declined after careful consideration.

### **Follow-up Work Planned**

OSRTI plans to conduct approximately 5 new evaluations each year.

### **OSRTI Contact**

Jennifer Hovis (703.603.8888)

## **CSTAG Project Update**

### **Name of Activity**

4.4 Contaminated Sediment Technical Advisory Group (CSTAG) - Issue memorandum setting size criteria to identify potential CSTAG sediment sites.

### **Purpose of Activity**

To identify those contaminated sediment sites under investigation that could undergo future review by the CSTAG. The lack of clearly defined criteria has lead to some large, complex, or controversial sites reaching the remedy proposal stage without CSTAG review. Therefore, OSRTI is adopting the following criteria to identify new potential CSTAG sites. Any site where there is significant (e.g., above sediment screening values) sediment contamination in at least 25 acres of water, or in a river reach of at least two miles, or in a section of stream at least four miles long will be considered a potential CSTAG site.

This activity is related to the 120-Day Study Recommendation #42 – Similar Remedies at Similar Site Types.

### **Major Actions Performed**

OSWER Directive 9285.6-13 announcing these new CSTAG site size criteria was issued August 11, 2005.

### **Results/Accomplishments**

In 2006, the CSTAG provided updated recommendations on 3 sites and provided recommendations on 1 new site.

### **Follow-up Work Planned**

OSRTI will follow-up with site managers on potential sites as more information on the level of contamination and potential risk becomes available.

### **OSRTI Contact**

Stephen Ells (703.603.8822)

## **RA Report Guidance Project Update**

### **Name Of Activity**

5.1a New Remedial Action Report Guidance

### **Purpose of Activity**

This activity will enable the collection of priority historical cost and performance data for completed remedial action projects. This will improve future cost documentation through the instructions provided in this new guidance document.

This activity is related to the 120-Day Study Recommendation #40 – Conduct Long Term Remedial Action Reviews to Reduce Remedy Costs.

### **Major Actions Performed**

The Remedial Action Report Guidance has been drafted and is ready for approval.

### **Results/Accomplishments**

This effort (5.1a) requires only the approval of the RA Report Guidance by other OSWER offices before it can be issued for use.

### **Follow-up Work Planned**

The RA Report Guidance is currently undergoing internal review.

### **OSRTI Contact**

Ken Skahn (703.603.8801)

## **Improved Technology Project Update**

### **Name of Activity**

5.1b Improved Technology Cost Estimation and Management

### **Purpose of Activity**

This activity will target the collection and analysis of priority historical cost data and provide for easy access by regional and state project officers. This will improve future cost estimates through the consideration of historical experience.

This activity is related to the 120-Day Study Recommendation #40 – Conduct Long Term Remedial Action Reviews to Reduce Remedy Costs.

### **Major Actions Performed**

The draft Remedial Action Report Guidance calls for reporting selected cost data for completed remedial action projects (5.1a). The historical cost data will be compiled using a standardized format which will enable comparison between projects. The data will be tabulated and analyzed using statistical techniques. This effort will focus on new technologies, such as in situ processes, which have experienced some limited use and are expected to grow in popularity.

### **Results/Accomplishments**

This effort requires issuance of the RA Report Guidance and subsequent reporting for completed projects. A draft guide has been prepared and is under review. The major concern is whether the cost data and other information which must be documented in the report are worth the added burden posed by this new reporting requirement.

### **Follow-up Work Planned**

The RA Report Guidance is undergoing internal review.

### **OSRTI Contact**

John Kingscott (703.603.7189)

## **Improved Technology Estimation Project Update**

### **Name of Activity**

5.1c Improved Technology Cost Estimation and Management

### **Purpose of Activity**

This activity targets priority historical cost data, assess and facilitate regional access, and provide a national resource for assistance with preparing and evaluating cost estimates.

This activity is related to the 120-Day Study Recommendation #69 – Regions Should Continue to Build Cost Analysis Expertise.

### **Major Actions Performed**

Cost Estimation – On June 1, 2004, a memo was issued to Regional Policy Managers from Mike Cook, Director, OSRTI, titled, “Cost Estimating Resources for the Superfund Program.” This memo provided information about the resources available nationwide to assist work assignment managers in the preparation of independent government estimates (IGCEs) for technical support projects for Superfund sites and for the development and review of construction cost estimates for Superfund construction projects. Issuance of the memo completed this activity.

### **Final Products Planned**

No further products are needed.

### **Results/Accomplishments**

June 2004 memo issued to Regional Policy Managers from Mike Cook, Director, OSRTI, titled, “Cost Estimating Resources for the Superfund Program.”

### **Follow-up Work Planned**

None planned.

### **OSRTI Contact**

Ken Skahn (703.603.8801)



## **Cost Performance Information Project Update**

### **Name of Activity**

#### **5.2 Compile and Distribute Cost and Performance Information**

### **Purpose of Activity**

This activity involves an interagency effort to collect cost and performance case studies on the application of remediation technologies. This work is being undertaken through the Federal Remediation Technologies Roundtable. The studies involve the field application of treatment technologies; characterization and monitoring technologies; and long-term monitoring/optimization of remedial processes. The studies are posted on the Roundtable web site in a searchable format. Typically, these case studies are collected in the spring and posted shortly after the June Roundtable meeting.

This activity is related to the 120-Dat Study Recommendation #69 – Regions Should Continue to Build Cost Analysis Expertise.

### **Major Actions Performed**

A total of 36 new case studies were added to the Roundtable inventory in 2005 and 38 in 2006.

### **Results/Accomplishments**

In addition to the case studies, the Roundtable also collects documents prepared by federal and state agencies to assist project managers in selecting and designing remediation technologies. Approximately 70 of these general technology assessment reports have been collected and the Roundtable recently identified the most current and useful of these for use by project managers. These recommended documents are highlighted and described in a recently published fact sheet.

### **Follow-up Work Planned**

New case studies and technology assessment reports will be collected and posted on the Roundtable web site after the 2007 May/June meeting.

### **OSRTI Contact**

John Kingscott (703.603.7189)

## **Mining Site Treatment Project Update**

### **Name of Activity**

5.3 Utilizing Technology for Outstanding Site Management - Mining Site Treatment

### **Purpose of Activity**

At the Gilt Edge Mining Superfund Site, pilot in-situ mining site treatment to determine feasibility of technology and determine the degree of cost savings achieved.

This activity is related to the 120-Day Study Recommendations #41 – Cost-Effective Cleanup and #42 – Similar Remedies at Similar Site Types.

### **Major Actions Performed**

Conduct field studies and draft Engineering Bulletin to include evaluation of in-situ mining treatment. The Engineering issue paper was produced by the ORD's Engineering Technical Support Center, and reviewed by the National Mining Team. It is titled, "Management and Treatment of Water from Hard Rock Mines."

The Mine Waste Technology Program and ARCADIS participated in the treatability study as part of the Gilt Edge Mining site remedial investigation/feasibility study. ARCADIS was involved with the nutrient addition (methanol, molasses, phosphoric acid) to the pit lake. The Mine waste Technology Program's interest was to develop data applicable to other similar sites. Significant effort was devoted toward discharging treated water from the pit. A project description is included at:

<http://www.epa.gov/minewastetechnology/annual/annual2004/pit/giltedgemine.htm>

Completed "Management and Treatment of Water from Hard Rock Mines" and published in October 2006

<http://epa.gov/nrmrl/pubs/625r06014/625r06014.htm>

### **Results/Accomplishments**

None planned at this time.

### **Follow-up Work Planned**

The document was published in October 2006 and is available through ORD's internet site.

### **EPA Contact**

David Reisman, ORD (513-487-2588)